



# SUPERIOR COURT

## Thurston County, Washington

# Court Commissioner

## THURSTON COUNTY

Thurston County is located at the southern end of the Puget Sound in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Majestic Mount Rainier and the rugged Cascades are nearby to the east, while Washington's Pacific coastline is just an hour's drive to the west. Thurston County is 60 miles south of Seattle, Washington, and 100 miles north of Portland, Oregon.

As anyone who lives here can tell you, Thurston County has it all: ocean waters, mountains, rivers, forests, rural splendor and seclusion; cities and shopping; not to mention affordable housing, good wages, and school systems that are some of the best in the state.

Washington's state capital, the city of Olympia, along with neighboring cities, Lacey and Tumwater, has experienced significant growth. The County is now home to more than 280,588 residents with approximately half living in the urban tri-city area, while others prefer the smaller towns of Yelm, Tenino, Rainier, Bucoda, and the unincorporated Thurston County area. Thurston County is one of the fastest growing areas in Washington State.

## SUPERIOR COURT

Thurston County Superior Court is a state trial court of general jurisdiction. The Court has state-wide jurisdiction and hears major criminal matters, civil cases including cases involving real property, domestic relations matters, appeals from lower courts (Thurston County District and Municipal Courts), and appeals from state administrative agencies.

Family & Juvenile Court, a department of Superior Court, hears juvenile offender matters as well as child dependency cases. Family & Juvenile Court also operates a juvenile detention facility.

Thurston County Superior Court has eight full-time elected judges who sit on all matters and three Superior Court Commissioners who sit primarily in Family & Juvenile Court and on domestic relations and domestic violence cases.

## SUPERIOR COURT'S MISSION & VISION

The mission of the Court is to serve the public through the prompt resolution of civil and criminal cases in a manner that ensures access and fair treatment.

The Court's vision is to provide a Court where all can safely and easily access the Court, its programs and services, and have an opportunity to be heard. Through well-trained judicial officers and court staff, the Court uses innovative techniques and manages public resources responsibly. The Court seeks community input to ensure public confidence in the judiciary and to reflect the diverse community needs.



## THE ROLE OF A COURT COMMISSIONER

As a member of Thurston County's Superior Court Judicial Team and reporting to the Court's Presiding Judge, the Court Commissioner presides over assigned hearings; makes rulings, findings, judgments, and orders. The incumbent ensures that hearings are managed and services are provided in accordance with the Court's mission, vision, and objectives.

This is an appointed, "at-will" position and works at the pleasure of the Board of Judges. Additionally, if hired, Court Commissioners cannot engage in active practice of law during employment with the Court.

# THURSTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT— COURT COMMISSIONER

## POSITION OVERVIEW

- Conducts court calendars; presides over hearings; makes rulings, findings, judgments, and orders. Rules on matters ex parte.
- As assigned, presides over proceedings in various judicial areas, which may include hearing family law, domestic violence protection orders, juvenile law, unlawful detainer, involuntary treatment act matters, as well as other matters as delegated by the Board of Judges.
- Reviews court files, documents, authorities, and related materials to assess cases before and after hearings; prepares court documents, records, reports, correspondence, and other written materials pertaining to case findings.
- Presents statements of fact and law and communicates clearly and logically in written and oral form, both to attorneys and self-represented parties.
- Defines issues, performs legal research, analyzes problems, evaluates alternatives, and makes appropriate findings and recommendations.
- Prepares clear and concise decisions and summaries of factual and legal issues.
- Effectively represents the court in contacts with the public, attorneys, law enforcement agencies, and other government jurisdictions.
- Establishes and maintains cooperative working relationships. Works well with the public and staff, including employees of court administration, the Clerk's Office, and the jail.
- Understands current social and economic problems and the way in which those problems affect families and juveniles.
- Engages with issues of domestic violence and juvenile matters.
- Deals tactfully and effectively in emotional and adversarial proceedings.
- Understands and abides by the Code of Judicial Conduct and other ethical mandates.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an ABA accredited law school or successful completion of the APR 6 Law Clerk program.

Active or judicial membership in good standing with the Washington State Bar Association, admitted to practice for at least five years before appointment, unless periods of inactive membership are due to previously holding a judicial position.

Must successfully pass criminal background and reference checks.

Must be a United States citizen.

Must be able to operate a computer with applicable software, and office equipment to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

**Must be knowledgeable of:** legal principles and precedents and their application; statutory and constitutional law of Washington State, particularly in the legal areas to which they are assigned; and principles of family, civil, criminal, and constitutional law.

## COMPENSATION

Thurston County offers a monthly base salary of \$12,223. The County pays for employees' medical, dental, vision and basic life insurance, up to the highest standard, and provides up to \$675 toward dependent care coverage. Other benefits include Washington State PERS retirement, 10 paid holidays per year, paid time off, and an employee assistance program. Additional available benefits are: voluntary term life insurance, voluntary short term disability, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, flexible spending account, and deferred compensation.

## TO APPLY

Submit your Thurston County application attaching your Letter of Interest and Resume through the County's on-line job application system at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/thurstonwa>

**Application packages will be accepted until  
5 p.m., May 20, 2019.**

